Teach For All

Lessons from this worldwide experiment in distance learning

As part of the 2020 World Teachers' Day official program, UNESCO and Teach For All co-hosted a panel discussion on October 7 exploring what various stakeholders have learned so far about the unprecedented shift to distance learning in response to COVID-19 and how to leverage insights learned for reimagining education systems and the role of leadership moving forward.

> *This crisis has magnified the disparity and inequalities. It requires huge investment-infrastructure, but also investing in teacher skills, listening to students' voice and putting connectivity as the tool of the core process, not the main goal.*
>
> — **Stefania Giannini**, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO

Key Takeaways

Education stakeholders face not just a digital divide, but a leadership divide. We need to do more to build the local leadership capacity of people e.g. students, teachers, school leaders, parents, community members etc. to support them in creating stronger enabling distance learning environments for sustained learning outcomes. Education stakeholders who commit to leveraging available resources succeed in supporting students.

To ensure equity in distance learning we need huge investments, not only in digital infrastructure, but in teachers and building their capacity to deliver quality blended learning. Connectivity should be a key tool in this process, but not the main goal.

Guiding Questions

- What has this worldwide experiment in distance learning taught us about the role of education and teacher leaders in this new era?

- What have we learned about the role of technology in ensuring greater equity in learning? How do we ensure that learners with limited or no connectivity don't fall further behind?

- What more do we need to do as an international community to foster the type of education leadership and enabling conditions (whether at the

Technology solutions need to be simple, functional, and accessible in low connectivity environments, taking into consideration the tools and competencies that end users e.g. teachers, students, and communities already have.

We need to rethink existing models of teaching to ensure that learning is a multi-directional process with students, teachers, parents, and community members working together in deep partnership towards both academic and non-academic student outcomes and student ownership over learning.

With this challenge comes an opportunity for us to dream big and reimagine education and learning that harnesses the collective leadership of students, teachers, and community members.

> 66 *It's important to rethink the purpose of education. Is it about social uplifting or about building our own privileges?* 99

— **Raghvendra Yadav**, Teach For All Student Leader Advisory Council Member and Teach For India student
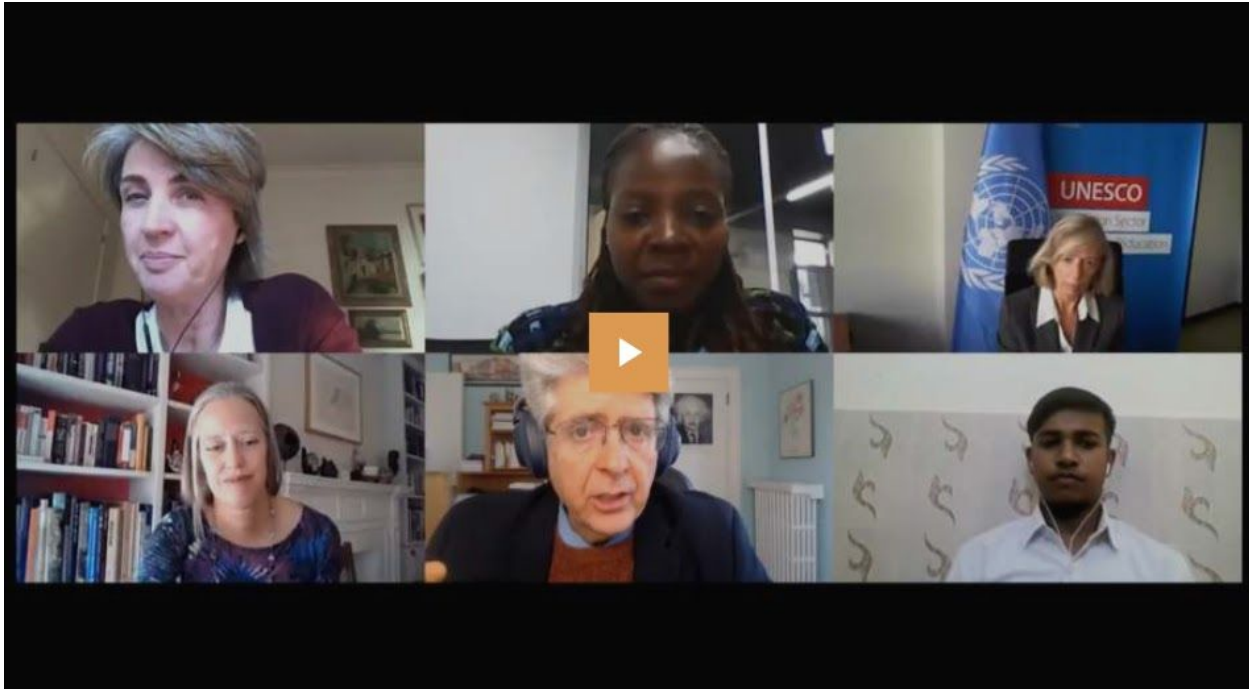
community, school, regional, or global level) to strengthen equitable, quality, remote learning for the future?

Additional Resources

- UNESCO World Teachers' Day website with links to the World Teachers' Day 2020 Celebration concept note and agenda.

- ProFuturo digital learning platform where you can access more than 160 courses and 2,800 hours of training in different languages for free.

- October 15, 2020 op-ed co-authored by Jaime Saavedra and Wendy Kopp on the topic: *To rebuild our education systems, we must focus first on leadership.*

- "*How to reach students without internet: Key Recommendations*", Teaching Without Internet Alliance powered by Teach For All.

- Teach For All's #Don't Stop Learning initiative highlighting examples of how educators and families around the world are navigating the challenges of remote learning

The Power of Partnerships

The session also highlighted the importance of partnerships in achieving our shared goals and building on these learnings, showcasing as an example the partnership between Teach For All network partners and ProFuturo, to support the training of 15,000 teachers in Tanzania, Liberia, and Nigeria in collaboration with Empieza por Educar, Teach For Nigeria, Teach For Liberia, and Teach For Tanzania. Both Teach For All and ProFuturo are members of UNESCO's Global Education Coalition to protect the right to education during unprecedented disruption and beyond.

Featured Speakers

Moderator: Fernando Reimers, Ford Foundation Professor of Practice in International Education, Harvard University and UNESCO Futures of Education Commission member

Panelists:
- Magdalena Brier, Managing Director, ProFuturo
- Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO
- Wendy Kopp, CEO & Co-founder, Teach For All
- Folawe Omikunle, CEO, Teach For Nigeria
- Raghvendra Yadav, Member of Teach For All's Student Leaders Advisory Council and a Teach For India student